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House of Representatives

The House was not in session today. Its next meeting will be held on Monday, May 23, 2011, at 2 p.m.

Senate

WEDNESDAY, MAY 18, 2011

The Senate met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Honorable KIRSTEN E. GILLIBRAND, a Senator from the State of New York.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

Ever loving and eternal God, source of light that never dims and of love that never fails, draw near to our Senators as You teach and lead them nearer to You. Make them children of faith and heirs of peace. May they tackle each challenge with integrity and faithfulness, cheerfulness and kindness, optimism and civility. Lord, keep them ever mindful of life's brevity and of the importance of being faithful even in little things. Give them the wisdom to be patient with others, ever lenient to their faults, and ever prompt to praise their virtues. May they bear with one another's burdens and so fulfill Your law.

We pray in Your sacred Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Honorable KIRSTEN E. GILLIBRAND led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

APPOINTMENT OF ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will please read a communication

to the Senate from the President pro tempore (Mr. INOUE).

The legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
Washington, DC, May 18, 2011.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable KIRSTEN E. GILLIBRAND, a Senator from the State of New York, to perform the duties of the Chair.

DANIEL K. INOUE,
President pro tempore.

Mrs. GILLIBRAND thereupon assumed the chair as Acting President pro tempore.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is recognized.

SCHEDULE

Mr. REID. Madam President, following any leader remarks, the Senate will be in morning business until 10:30 this morning. At 10:30, the Senate will resume consideration of the motion to proceed to S. 953. There will be 4 hours of debate. At approximately 2:30 p.m., there will be a rollcall vote on the motion to proceed to that legislation, with a 60-vote threshold. I filed cloture last night on the nomination of Goodwin Liu to be a U.S. circuit judge for the Ninth Circuit. The cloture vote on his nomination will be tomorrow.

RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Republican leader is recognized.

OFFSHORE PRODUCTION AND SAFETY ACT

Mr. MCCONNELL. Madam President, last night, Senate Democrats put forth a plan to raise taxes on American energy that, in their words, would have done nothing to lower the price of gas at the pump. As the chairman of the Finance Committee put it: "That's not the issue."

I think for most Americans, high gas prices actually are the issue.

According to a Gallup poll that came out this week, nearly 7 out of 10 Americans say the high cost of gas at the pump is causing financial hardship for their families. More than half of Americans say they have made major changes to compensate for it. More than 1 in 5 say high gas prices are jeopardizing their standard of living.

Americans are struggling. My constituents in Kentucky are hurting. They want relief, and all they are getting from Democrats in Washington is a dog and pony show. Their own Members admit their legislative proposals are gimmicks. They spent a week vilifying the energy industry and another week trying to punish them.

The legislation they proposed yesterday would have done three things: destroy jobs, send American jobs overseas, and make us more dependent on foreign sources of oil. That is what yesterday's bill would have done.

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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